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CHINA.

Report from Hongkong—One plague death—Plague cases reported during past year.

Passed Assistant Surgeon McMullen reports January 20, as follows: During the week ended January 17, 1903, 6 vessels were inspected, 193 steerage passengers and 370 crew were bathed at the disinfecting station, and 666 pieces of baggage were disinfected. There were 2 rejections because of fever among Chinese steerage. One case and 1 death each of enteric fever and plague, both Chinese, occurred during the time covered by this report, the only case of plague this year. During the past year 572 cases of plague were reported as having occurred in the colony.

The SURGEON-GENERAL.

CUBA.

Report from Cienfuegos.

Acting Assistant Surgeon McMahon reports, February 17, as follows: Week ended February 14, 1903. Seven bills of health were issued to vessels going to ports in the United States. No sickness on board of any, and all in good sanitary condition except one, steamship *Andes*, bound for Galveston.

Number of deaths in the city 13, from the following-named causes:

Enteritis.....	1	Tuberculosis.....	2
Tetanus.....	2	Pernicious fever.....	1
Arterio-sclerosis.....	2	Other causes.....	4
Pneumonia.....	1		

There is no improvement in the sanitary condition of the city.

The SURGEON-GENERAL.

Report from Habana—Mortality statistics.

Assistant Surgeon Trotter reports, February 15 and 19, as follows:

Mortuary report of Habana, week ended February 14, 1903.

Disease.	Number of deaths.	Disease.	Number of deaths.
Tuberculosis.....	19	Bronchitis.....	1
Pneumonia.....	6	Malignant pustule.....	1
Meningitis.....	9	Total deaths from all causes.....	90
Enteric fever.....	1		
Enteritis.....	4		

Yellow fever on steamship Esperanza, from Vera Cruz and Progreso.

The American steamship *Esperanza* arrived at this port from Vera Cruz and Progreso on February 12, 1903, with one first-class passenger ill with symptoms of yellow fever. The removal of the case was made to Las Animas Hospital, and the cabin on board of ship as well as adjoining rooms were disinfected by the Cuban service.

Accompanied by A. A. Surg. D. M. Echemendia, I visited Las Animas and examined the case, which was a well-marked and severe case of yellow fever. The patient, Captain Burke, was master of a tug of the New York and Cuba Mail Steamship Company, stationed at Progreso. He was relieved of command in the early part of February and went ashore and stayed at the hotel, and was there taken sick on February 7, 1903. On the arrival of the *Esperanza* at Progreso on the morning of the 9th instant he went on board, the vessel sailing that afternoon for Habana. No inspection was made of this vessel and passengers at Progreso, so far as I can learn, and the bill of health from Progreso, issued by the United States consul, makes no mention of the sickness of this passenger. No cases and no deaths from yellow fever were reported from Progreso.

NOTE.—A case of yellow fever imported on the steamship *Esperanza*, from Vera Cruz, was reported from Habana November 26, 1902. The case ended fatally on December 3. (See Public Health Reports, No. 52, Dec. 26, p. 2914.)

Decree relative to prohibition of importations from certain Mexican ports on account of plague.

[Translation.]

Decree No. 15.

In view of the decision of the superior sanitary board of the date of January 22 last, and taking into account the information received in respect to the existence of the disease known by the name of bubonic plague in Mazatlan and Coatzacoalcos, in the Republic of Mexico, constituting a danger to the public health by the frequent entrance into Cuban ports of vessels with passengers, cattle, and merchandise proceeding from ports of that Republic, the normal quarantine precautions contained in the dispositions now in force by the quarantine service not offering sufficient guaranty to prevent the importation of the disease, in accordance with the provision of article 7 of Military Order No. 122, of 1902, and at the suggestion of the secretary of Government, I deem it well to promulgate the following:

ARTICLE 1. The importation of all classes of cattle from the port of Coatzacoalcos, in the Republic of Mexico, is prohibited, this prohibition extending to whatever port of the Gulf of Mexico of the same Republic, when the certificate of their origin shows that these cattle proceeded from localities infected by bubonic plague.

ART. 2. This prohibition will apply to those vessels proceeding from the aforesaid ports ten days after its publication in the form established by the third article of Military Order No. 122, series of 1902, in the offices of the respective Cuban consuls or consular officers, or those of the United States of North America in those ports where no consular representation of the Republic of Cuba has been established.

ART. 3. There shall be applied with all rigor immediately in the ports of Cuba, and in the manner and under the conditions established by the cited article 3, of order No. 122, in all of the ports of the Republic of Mexico, the extraordinary and special precepts of the above-named military order to vessels of all classes which bring passengers, cattle, and merchandise from those ports referred to above